

Message Text

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13-12
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06

IO-13 /052 W
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R 161352Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7089
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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AMCONSUL PORT SAID SENDS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT EG
SUBJ: RUMORS OF SECOND SOUTHBOUND SUEZ CANAL CONVOY RETURN

1. SEVERAL LOCAL BUSINESSMEN INVOLVED IN SHIPPING HAVE
REPEATED STORY THAT SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY (SCA) INTENDS
TO ADD SECOND SOUTHBOUND CONVOY BEGINNING OCTOBER 9,
1976.

2. THIS STORY CONFLICTS WITH REPEATED STATEMENTS
OF SCA OFFICIALS TO EFFECT THAT THIRD CONVOY WILL
NOT BEGIN UNTIL CONSTRUCTION ON BALLAH BY-PASS IS
COMPLETED SOMETIME NEXT YEAR.

3. ANTICIPATED THAT WHAT MAY ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE IS
USE OF GALLAH BY/PASS TO BERTH SMALL TONAGE, SHALLOW
DRAFT VESSELS AND THEREBY ALLOW GREATER NUMBER OF
VESSELS TO ENTER PORT SAID HARBOR TO AWAIT CONVOY.
THIS WOULD RELIEVE STRAIN ON BADLY ORGANIZED, STATE
CONTROLLED SHIPPING AGENCIES BY ALLOWING THEM TO
SERVE MAJORITY OF VESSELS DURING LAY-OVER, THUS
ELIMINATING NEED TO BOARD VESSELS COMING DIRECTLY FROM
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SEA TO JOIN CONVOY, A PROCEDURE WHICH REQUIRES THAT

THE AGENT BOARD VESSEL, CONDUCT HIS BUSINESS , AND
DEPART IN THE 20 TO 30 MINUTES AVAILABLE BEFORE
VESSEL ENTERS SUEZ CANAL PROPER.

4. THE RUMORS ARE QUITE DETAILED AND CALL FOR
FIRST SOUTHBOUND CONVOY TO BEGIN AT 0100 LOCAL TIME
AND CONTINUE UNTIL 0600. THE SECOND CONVOY WOULD
BEGIN AT 1000 LOCAL TIME AND CONTINUE UNTIL 1300.
VESSELS IN THE SECOND CONVOY WOULD LAY OVER IN
LAKE TIMSAH AND PROCEED SOUTHBOUND WHEN NORTHBOUND
COVOY HAD PASSED. SIGNED SURBER
MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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